ISSN 2321 – 7359 EISSN 2321 – 7367

discovery

Medical Science

The International Weekly Journal for Medicine

Use of unfair means, unethical ploy and academic misconduct: The dark side of academics

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Publication History
Received: 22 September 2014
Accepted: 10 October 2014
Published: 22 October 2014

Citation
Hira Nasir. Use of unfair means, unethical ploy and academic misconduct: The dark side of academics. *Medical Science*, 2014, 13(52), 86-87

ABSTRACT

Academia can be defined as a learning centre for students. Academics play an important part in building one's career as well as personality and it also has a huge impact on society. The quality of academics determines the kind of future the nation will have. It is said that a nation's strength lies in its youth and the success of youth rely on academics up to a great extent. As a student, one can admit the importance of academics in a student's life. In this letter, the dark side of academics which encompass the use of unfair means, unethical ploy and academic misconduct continues to be the topic of discussion.

Keywords
Academics; Misconduct; Unethical; Unfair means

1. INTRODUCTION

Student experience is the most enthusiastic phase of one's life. In this phase dreams are built and a dazzling future is dreamt. But nowadays students are more absorbed in beautifying their degrees and transcripts rather than their academic development which is quite unfortunate. Student life is the age of learning but mostly students these days are seen running after academic shortcuts. I would define an academic shortcut as pursuance of an unethical way/s to obtain good academic record/s. I have witnessed this fact around my surroundings too. Majority of students pursue studies the whole academic year and swot up at the eleventh hour because they are more intended towards getting good grades and least towards the academic development which is an unhealthy habit. Students typically squeeze in last minute revision for an exam the night before. This is an unhealthy activity and lead to a deficit in retained knowledge. Grades do not prove the intelligence; it is the hard work that matters! Mostly students run away from

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hard work and enrol in courses that do not require substantial reading or writing assignments, they rarely interact with the professors outside of class room and their college/university experience is more focused on social rather than on academic development. Thirst for knowledge and enthusiasm is rarely seen among the students these days.

2. DISCUSSION

Academic dishonesty and misconduct has been prevailed in our society and is adversely affecting our academic system. Cheating, bribery and such other false traits are so common these days and students use them as shortcuts to achieve their objectives. In the United States, studies show that 20% of students started cheating in the first grade. Similarly, other studies reveal that currently in the U.S., 56% of middle school students and 70% of high school students have cheated. A large-scale study in Germany found that 75% of the university students admitted that they conducted at least one of seven types of academic misconduct (such as plagiarism or falsifying data) within the previous six months. All these factors have a host of effects on our academic system. It interferes with the basic mission of education, the transfer of knowledge, by allowing students to get by without having to master the knowledge and they are encouraged to find shortcuts rather than working hard to accomplish their goals and in this scenario, the learning process suffer terribly.

3. CONCLUSION

All these activities are the leading cause of learning deprivation among students and create an atmosphere that is not conducive to the educational development process, which affects honest students as well. Students are believed to be the power house of infinite energy they are full of potential of acquiring knowledge but they get demoralized as they see the rewards for their hard work get cheapened and it also retards their pursuit of knowledge and all these factors unfortunately lead to an academic system where knowledge and excellence get compromised.

CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

No conflicts.

Information about the author

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